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Senate passes Sen. Allen's legislation helping Kingsley High School

LANSING – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, announced today that legislation providing Kingsley High School administrators with additional flexibility to keep the students on track for graduation passed the Senate unanimously.

Senate Bill 1100 would allow up to an additional 20 hours of instruction to be waived so the school can keep their School Aid funding.

“I am pleased that my colleagues agree with me that Kingsley High School students and the district should not be penalized because of what happened to their school,” Allen said. “This bill will allow students to finish the school year on time for graduation and protect the district’s funding.”

Kingsley High School closed in February due to extensive roof damage from snow buildup. Students missed several days of school while administrators and the community worked on a plan to continue classes.

Allen had a first-hand look at the damage when he toured the school, inspecting the roof trusses and seeing the damage done from the collapse.

“It’s going to be a while before the building is safe for use again and that’s why this legislation is so important to Kingsley students,” Allen said.

State legislative leaders and the governor were made aware of the situation in Kingsley. Allen has been working with the chairs of the education committees and appropriation sub-committees in both chambers to keep them apprised of the situation.

After discussions with the governor and the state superintendent, it was determined that the best way to solve the issue of school instruction hours would be through legislative means.

“With full support from the Senate, House and governor, hopefully we will be able to make sure that this incident has the least impact possible on the students and their education,” Allen said.

SB 1100 now heads to the House of Representatives for approval.

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Editor’s note: Audio comments from Sen. Allen are available on the internet at:
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/Allen/index.htm>